Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program

Stocking Program

Over the past 5 years, DFG has stocked more than 12 million trout and 34 million salmon and steelhead annually in over 900 locations throughout California. Trout have been stocked in high mountain lakes, low elevation reservoirs, and various rivers and creeks. Salmon and steelhead have been stocked mostly in rivers and direct tributaries to the Pacific Ocean, with the exception of kokanee, coho, and Chinook salmon that have been planted in inland reservoirs.

DFG Hatcheries and Stocking

Fingerling and Sub-Catchable Program

Trout are stocked at 3 to 6 inches in length and sometimes larger into a productive environment that supports growth and survival, but where spawning habitat is inadequate. Examples of this stocking effort are:

- Aerial stocking of fingerlings in high mountain lakes
- Stocking of kokanee salmon in productive reservoirs
- Stocking of sub-catchable fish in water bodies such as Crowley Lake

Catchable Program

The Catchable Trout Program provides fish that are about ½ pound in weight (approximately 10 to 12 inches total length) in heavily fished and easily accessible waters for anglers. These waters normally lack the natural production to support angler demand. Small roadside lakes and streams are often included in this stocking effort.

Fishing in the City, Classroom Aquarium Education Project, and the Private Stocking Permit Program

- DFG provides education staff and fish for stocking under the Fishing in the City program, which was specifically designed to introduce fishing in an urban setting.
- DFG authorizes specific educational programs to raise and plant fish and provides fish eggs for the Classroom Aquarium Education Project (CAEP). This program helps school age children become aware of the life stages of fish and provides a platform for learning about how our actions can affect aquatic ecosystems.
- DFG issues permits to individuals for stocking public and private waters with fish reared at private aquaculture facilities through the Private Stocking Permit Program.

